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DEPARTMENT FOR PA, NEA/ARN, INR/IC/CD, INR/R/MR:STHIBEAULT AND  
JMCCARTER, VOA NEWS CA, NEA/PPD:CBOURGEOIS, AZAIBACK, AND  
AFERNANDEZ, IIP/G/NEA-SA MDAVIDSON  
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC  
CENTCOM FOR CCPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR PREL KPAO OPRC SY

SUBJECT: Syria/Kuwait, Syria/UAE, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestinian territories

**¶11. Summary:** Syrian papers on July 12 reported that President Asad on July 11 received a letter from Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad al-Jaber Al Sabah connected with bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries and issues of common concern. The letter focused on the latest developments in the region, particularly in Iraq, occupied Palestinian territories and in Lebanon and on the necessity for continuation of consultation and coordination among Arab countries to boost joint Arab solidarity. The letter was handed to President al-Assad by Emir of Kuwait Special advisor Abdul-Rahman Salim Al-Ateeqi.

Independent al-Watan reported that Sheikh Khalifah bin Zayed Al-Nhayan will conduct a two day visit to Damascus starting July 15.

The talks will deal with bilateral relation and developing them on the economic, commercial, investment, technological and cultural levels. The visit is the first leg of a tour which will include Algeria and France.

Papers also commemorated the first anniversary of the Israeli war against Lebanon on July 2006. Papers featured statements by Lebanese figures on this anniversary citing a statement by Ali Qansu, Chairman of the Syrian Social Nationalist party in Lebanon confirming on July 11 that "the victory of the Lebanese resistance against the Israeli aggression last summer constitutes an honorable page in the Lebanese modern history to be added to another brilliant pages made by the resistance in 2000.

Qansu said "the Lebanese national resistance has foiled a group of Israeli and US schemes aiming to end the resistance and turn Lebanon into US military base." Another statement by al-Wafa Bloc for Resistance at the Lebanese Parliament asserted that the strategic and historic victory of resistance over the Israeli aggression last July represents a victory for Lebanon, Arabs and all honorable men and freedom fighters in the world because resistance foiled aggression's projects in spite of all international support to this aggression. The al-Wafa Bloc statement said that "every one is invited to make use of the lessons to increase resistance's will till shattering all Israel's illusions and dreams." "The US Administration is a partner with Israel in responsibility of July aggression" the statement added. Former Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Hoss said that during last July Israeli aggression, the resistance was capable to stand in the face of Israel which was backed by the US since the starting of war till the end.

End of summary.

12. Selected Headlines:

"President Asad receives a message from the Emir of Kuwait on bilateral relations, developments in the region and enhancement of Arab solidarity" (Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 7/12)

"President of United Arab Emirates in Syria next Sunday" (Independent al-Watan, 7/12)

"One year past the July aggression against Lebanon, Lahoud: Israel has been humiliated, Lebanon emerged as victorious. Nationalist Lebanese factions: The resistance maintained its preparedness; the governing team's commitments placed it at loss" (Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 7/12)

"The aggression started one year ago. Israel's defeat is a defeat for the US project" (Government-owned Tishreen, 7/12)

"Anti-war demonstrations on the anniversary of the July aggression against Lebanon" (Government-owned Tishreen, 7/12)

"A draft US Congressional resolution to schedule withdrawal from Iraq within 120 days. Bush trusts his military more than his politicians" (Independent al-Watan, 7/12)

"Iraq will be divided into three separate entities" (Independent al-Watan, 7/12)

"Bush requests more a time limit in Iraq hinting at veto against Democrats. Bush to Americans: Like you, I would like a US withdrawal from Iraq if circumstances are appropriate" (Government-owned Tishreen, 7/12)

"A fifth Republican senator opposes Bush's policy on Iraq" (Government-owned Tishreen, 7/12)

"Israeli intelligence: An Iranian nuclear bomb in 2009, a war with Syria is possible" (Independent al-Watan, 7/12)

"France confirms Hizbullah's attendance of a summit of Lebanese political leaders in France" (Independent al-Watan, 7/12)

"Palestinian factions and remaining Palestinian civilians depart the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp. The Lebanese army prepares to put bring the battle in Nahr al-Bared to an end" (Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 7/12)

"The Amnesty International criticizes failure to bring officials responsible for the July war against Lebanon: The UN Security Council is biased" (Independent al-Watan, 7/12)

"Hanieh rejects dispatch of international forces to Gaza. Failure of the Palestinian Legislative Council convention raises questions about the Fayyadh government" (Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 7/12)

"The Palestinian Legislative Council is suspended due to Hamas boycott. Verbal disputes resume in Palestine" (Independent al-Watan, 7/12)

13. Editorial Block Quotes:

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"Awaiting De Gaulist France in Sarkozian Attire"

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Isam Dari, Chief Editor of government-owned Tishreen, wrote (7/12): "French president Sarkozy accused Hizbullah of being a terrorist organization....

"We had hoped France would take off Jacques Chirac's cloak and move closer to the free and independent de Gaulist thought, which wanted France to be the master of its own decision, not to implement the policies and wishes of others....

"While the Chirac era was characterized by the personalization of politics, where personal interests were given precedence over national interests, the current stage under President Sarkozy does not seem to have gotten rid completely of Chirac's legacy, especially in Lebanon....

"We hope that France will play its role in the region from the position of a neutral and fair partner willing to achieve peace and justice....

"Blind bias to a certain Lebanese party under the pretext that it represents the parliamentary majority is not the right option.... Ignoring the popular majority and accusing a team within this majority of terrorism do not serve Lebanon and its cause...."

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"Fabrications under Bankruptcy"

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Khalid al-Ashhab, an editorialist in government-owned Al-Thawra, wrote (7/12): "The United States is using a policy of fabrication and distortion of facts against Iraq, Lebanon, Palestinian territories and against Syria....

"This policy, which was initiated with force and vitality, is now suffering in the throes of death....

"The same naturally applies to the local tools that were used to promote this policy, namely the March 14 team in Lebanon...."

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"On the Victory Day"

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Amr Nasif, a commentator in independent al-Watan, wrote (7/12): "If Hezbollah dedicated its victory in the July war last year to the Lebanese and Arab peoples, Israel dedicated its defeat to Zionized Arabs who supported the Israeli-American effort to annihilate Hezbollah.

"These Arabs are subservient followers of the White House policy, implementing its order very accurately even if this entails forging history, distorting divine books, and feeding sectarian seditions...."

Corbin